



NOTES FROM THE UNAFAS CVP TREE NURSERY, ON HOW TO GERMINATE AND NURSE USEFUL TREE SPECIES OF CAMEROON

Bitter Kola

Scientific Name *Garcinia kola*

[Link to seedling photo](#)

An attractive tree, 10-30m tall at maturity, with a wide spreading crown. Shade tolerant, but grows faster in sun. Tolerates poor soils. Germination can be very slow. Some seeds make buds within a month of sowing, some take more than a year. Buds may appear, then not grow for some time. Be patient, continue to water, and to weed, and you will have success.

Nursery technique

Kola nuts sold in the market or on the roadside for consumption can be nursed successfully.

- Make a seed bed with loose soil at least 40 cm deep
- Place the seeds, evenly, all over the surface, leaving 2-3 cm between.
- Cover with 2 cm of soil.
- Water and weed regularly. Keep the soil moist.
- Transfer seedlings to pots when the shoot is 2-4 cm tall, taking care not to damage the roots. There may be roots growing from one or both ends of the seed.
- Transplant when seedlings are 40 cm or more high.
- Protect the seedbed and seedlings from heavy rain and hot sun by putting thatch or similar material on the soil surface or over head.
- If seeds become exposed, add soil to cover them.

Germination can be accelerated by covering the seedbed with plastic sheeting, held down with soil, stones, pegs or other weights around the edges. The soil beneath the plastic must be kept moist, the plastic then acts like a propagator, creating warm conditions for the seeds.

NOTES